DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 113 304 SP 009 538

AUTHOR Fidler, Merrie A.
TITLE The All-American Girls' Baseball League, 1943-1954.
PUB DATE Apr 75
NOTE 29p.; Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the North American Society for Sport History (3rd, Boston, Massachusetts, April 16-19, 1975)

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.76 HC-$1.95 Plus Postage
DESCRIPTORS *Athletics; *Baseball; *Females; *Historical Reviews; Organizational Change; Recreational Activities; *Womens Athletics
IDENTIFIERS Wrigley (Philip K)

ABSTRACT

This presentation provides an historical sketch of the All-American Girls' Baseball League (AAGBBL). The League was created in 1942 as the All-American Girls' Softball League, by Philip K. Wrigley. He initiated the League as a non-profit organization governed by a board of three trustees. Mr. Wrigley's basic motivation for creating the AAGSBL was to organize substitute entertainment for men's professional baseball. In 1943, Mr. Wrigley began de-emphasizing the League's identity with softball and emphasizing its identity with baseball. The League was renamed the All-American Girls' Professional Ball League, but unofficially it was referred to as the AAGBBL. The League grew from its four original teams in 1943 to a maximum of ten teams in 1948. By 1954, it had dwindled down to five teams. The organizational structure of the League underwent three basic changes, all due to changes in administration. There were also both real and imagined problems with male managers and female players. To solve this, chaperones were hired. The League administrators maintained strict conduct rules for the players. The demise of the AAGBBL came after the 1954 season. Post-World War II social changes combined with intra-league changes to contribute to the League's demise. Many instructive lessons can be ascertained from the League's experience, however, for current and future application to women's professional sport. An appendix is attached which contains charts and tables on structure, salaries, and participants. (RC)

****
* Documents acquired by ERIC include many informal unpublished *
* materials not available from other sources. ERIC makes every effort *
* to obtain the best copy available. Nevertheless, items of marginal *
* reproducibility are often encountered and this affects the quality *
* of the microfiche and hardcopy reproductions ERIC makes available *
* via the ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS). EDRS is not *
* responsible for the quality of the original document. Reproductions *
* supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made from the original. *
****

ED113304

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

THE ALL-AMERICAN GIRLS' BASEBALL LEAGUE, 1943-1954

Merrie A. Fidler
Department of Physical Education
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota

A paper presented at the Third Annual Conference
of the North American Society for Sport History
Boston, Massachusetts, April 16-19, 1975

SP009 538

This presentation attempts to provide an historical sketch of the All-American Girls' Baseball League. It attempts to describe the organizational structure of the League including a brief discussion of its personnel. It also attempts to identify internal and external changes which affected the League's success and decline. Finally, it attempts to suggest implications of the League's experience pertinent to modern day promoters of women's professional sport.

The League began operations in 1943 which you will recall was the middle of World War II. Domestic manpower was at its lowest tide and womanpower in the labor market was the focus of a huge federal government promotional campaign.[1] It became a patriotic duty for American women to lay down their brooms, so to speak, and take up all manner of unfamiliar, previously male-dominated employments.[2] The sports entertainment world, like other "masculine" vocations, relaxed its resistance to female involvement during the war. Women appeared as jockeys, football coaches, umpires, bowling pin setters, caddies, horse trainers and ball players.[3]

Nearly all of the women who competed on the first All-American Girls' Baseball League (AAGBBL) teams were born between 1918 and 1925.[4] They became teenagers sometime during the 1930s when the WPA was building numerous recreational facilities in urban as well as rural areas; it was a time when well-established physical education programs were emerging for girls and women in schools and colleges; it was a time when the sport of softball was achieving maturity and popularity as a sport for all ages and both sexes.[5]

By 1939 it was estimated that 60,000,000 people were watching softball games, about 10,000,000 more than attended baseball games. In 1943 an estimated 2,750,000 players participated on 115,000 softball teams. A significant number of these were women's teams. Some journalists reported that women's softball teams attracted more spectators than men's teams.[6] The female softball talent pool generated in the 1930s combined with the manpower shortage of World War II set the stage for an innovative entrepreneur to organize a women's professional softball league.

The All-American Girls' Baseball League was created as the All-American Girls' Softball League by Philip K. Wrigley in the winter of 1942. Mr. Wrigley was and is the owner of the Chicago Cubs and Wrigley Chewing Gum Company. He initiated the league as a non-profit organization governed by a board of three trustees. The trustees included Mr. Wrigley, Paul Harper, an attorney for the Cubs and Branch Rickey, who was at that time general manager for the Brooklyn Dodgers.[7] Mr. Rickey was best known for signing Jackie Robinson to a Dodger Contract in 1946. He has also been considered the most innovative administrator associated with major league baseball.[8] The creation of the AAGSBL was one of the major innovative enterprises of Mr. Wrigley's and Mr. Rickey's baseball careers.

Mr. Wrigley's basic motivation for creating the AAGSBL was to organize substitute entertainment for men's professional baseball which was threatened by a projected manpower crisis in the fall of 1942. This crisis included an extension of the manpower shortage problem of 1941 plus government planned mass relocation of workers from non-war to war production labor in the spring of 1943. Mr. Wrigley attempted to persuade other baseball magnates to cooperate in this endeavor, but they declined to do so.[9]

Mr. Wrigley's creative efforts met with resistance from the administators of existing women's semi-pro softball leagues in Chicago. His organization threatened to infringe on their territory.[10] One means Mr. Wrigley developed at the outset to distinguish his league from the semi-pro leagues was through their uniforms. The AAGSBL uniforms were designed specifically to convey the image of femininity. They were modeled after tennis, field hockey and ice skating outfits then popular.[11] The uniforms remained essentially the same throughout the 12 year history of the league although the skirts became shorter and less full to facilitate mobility and fielding.[12]

As early as August of 1943 Mr. Wrigley began de-emphasizing the League's identity with softball and emphasizing its identity with baseball. Informally, sports writers were instructed to refer to the League as the AAGBBL. Officialy, however, the League was christened the All-American Girls' Professional Ball League.[13]

The organizational structure of the League underwent three basic changes. These changes can be identified with changes in League administrators (see appendix for organizational charts).

The first League president was Ken Sells who had previously served as an assistant to the Cub's general manager. He had the responsibility of organizing the League for the 1943 season. He noted that his organizational efforts would not have been possible if the Cubs' administration had not been put at his disposal.[14]

Mr. Sells is identified with what I call the League's Trusteeship Period, which lasted from 1943 through 1944. If you will notice, all League as well as nearly all team affairs were controlled by the League president during this period.

In the fall of 1944, after the threat of the manpower shortage to major league baseball had passed, and after other major league owners proved uncooperative in promoting the Girls' League in major league parks, Mr. Wrigley sold the League to one of his advertising agents, Arthur Meyerhoff. Mr. Meyerhoff had been active in League organization and promotion from its inception. He established a management corporation which administered all League affairs and delegated most team affairs to local team directors. Please note that players and managers were still primarily under the control of League administration. Mr. Meyerhoff acted as commissioner of the League from the fall of 1944 through the fall of 1950 and headed what I term the Management Corporation Period of the League.

The major function of Mr. Meyerhoff's Management Corporation was to maintain a league office in Chicago, hire personnel, draw up League schedules and publicize and promote the League. In return for administrative services, the Management Corporation received a percentage of each admission to League games.[15] Although a change in the League name was contemplated with this change in League structure, it was not until the end of the 1945 season that the League was officially christened the All-American Girls' Baseball League.[16]

Max Carey was employed as Mr. Meyerhoff's first president. He had been affiliated with the League during the 1944 season as manager of the Milwaukee team. Max was a 24 year veteran of major league baseball and he was famous for his base stealing feats with the Pittsburgh Pirates. He served as president of the AAGBBL until the end of the 1949 season.[17]

Mr. Carey was replaced in 1950 by his assistant, Fred Leo. At the

end of the 1950 season the League's relationship with the Management Corporation was dissolved because team directors thought Mr. Meyerhoff was making a profit on gate receipts at their expense.[18] In the Spring of 1951 Fred Lee was elevated to the position of League Commisaioner and team directors assumed autonomous control of their personnel. With this change the organizational structure of the AAGBBL more nearly paralleled that of men's professional baseball. The commissioner served primarily as League business manager and his power over League personnel was greatly restricted. I call the period between 1951-1954 the Period of Autonomous Team Ownership. The official title of the league was changed at this time to the American Girls' Baseball League, but it was still popularly referred to as the All-American Girls' Baseball League.[19]

The League grew from its four original teams of Racine and Kenosha Wisconsin, Rockford, Illinois and South Bend, Indiana, in 1943 to a maximum of 10 teams in 1948. By 1954 it had dwindled to five teams (see appendix for listing of teams).[20]

The first four league towns were war production centers in 1943 and some of the players worked in war production plants in the off season.[21] These cities were also centers where men's and women's softball had been popular during the 1930s. Sites selected for future teams also tended to be popular amatuer or semi-pro softball centers.[22]

One thing all League administrators had in common was the necessity of financial support from local businessmen. This became more and more of a necessity after Mr. Wrigley gave up his interest in the League in 1944. He reportedly spent $200,000 on the League.[23]

Under the Management Corporation structure initiated in 1945 many of

the businessmen who contributed to their local teams became team directors. These men tended to be among the foremost citizens of their communities. The presidents of each team, along with League administrative personnel formed the League Board of Directors which decided all matters of League policy.[24]

Team managers were primarily recruited from men's ex-professional baseball players.[25] The more famous of these included Dave Bancroft and Johnny Rawlings who respectively played shortstop and second base together under John McGraw's tutelage for the New York Giants from 1921-1923. Jimmy Foxx managed the Fort Wayne Daisies during the 1952 season and Bill Wambsganss managed in the League for four years. Bill Wamby, as he was called, was famous for executing the only unassisted triple play in World Series history, which he accomplished in the 5th game of the 1920 series.[26]

The most enduring and successful team manager throughout the 12 year history of the League was Bill Allington. He managed at Rockford for eight years and at Ft. Wayne for two years. Allington had been involved in coaching women's softball before his affiliation with the AAGBBL began in 1944.[27]

These ex-professional baseball players commanded player's and fan's respect as managers and they contributed to the professional aura of the League.

A couple of the veteran women players assumed mid-season managership of teams in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Bonnie Baker, for instance, managed the Muskegon Lassies during the last half of the 1950 season. But negative fan reaction to and poor player cooperation with women managers

prompted the League Board to prohibit further employment of women managers in 1951.[28]

There were of course real and imagined problems with male managers and female players! But League administrators solved these problems before the first official game. They hired chaperones to minister to the girls and to keep a vigil on their moral behaviour. Chaperones were often physical education teachers and/or veteran amateur softball players. Beginning with the 1950 season some of the veteran AAGBBL players acted as playing chaperones.[29]

Some of the early teams employed bat boys, but beginning with the 1946 season, league teams more commonly employed bat girls.[30]

League umpires endured the same fate of player/manager/fan vs. umpire confrontations in the AAGBBL as they did in other leagues.[31]

League administrators demonstrated a consistent tendency to experiment with equipment and facility changes. The trend was toward the use of a smaller ball and larger diamond, and from underhand pitching to overhand pitching which came into use in 1948 (see appendix for chart on equipment and facility changes).[32] The motive for these changes was to increase the spectator appeal of the game--to reduce the dominance of pitching characteristic of softball and increase the hitting and baserunning aspects characteristic of baseball.[33] League publicity emphasized the uniqueness of the game. It wasn't regulation men's baseball but it wasn't regulation women's softball either.[34]

Most players were recruited from urban centers throughout the U.S. and Canada. When the League first began operations in 1943 it was necessary to pay players a significant wage to compete with war industry salaries.

This standard was maintained until 1950 when Mr. Meyerhoff's influence on the League wanned (see appendix for evolution of player salaries).[35]

Each team played between 100-127 games per season (depending on the number of teams in the League), from the end of May to the middle of September. Needless to say, players couldn't hold an additional job--they were full-time ball players.[36]

Until 1951 players were under contract to the League rather than to individual teams. This arrangement was established to facilitate equalization of team talent.[37] Each spring team presidents and managers re-allocated players to teams in an effort to establish balanced competition among all teams.

The League administrators maintained strict conduct rules for players. They strove to convey and maintain an ideal image of femininity by stipulating that players always appear in feminine attire when not actively engaging in practice games. Slacks and shorts were only allowed at picnics, on the bus and at the beach. Boyish haircuts were strictly forbidden. Smoking and drinking were not permitted in public places although players were allowed to have limited portions of beer and wine with after game meals. All social engagements, eating places and living quarters were supposed to be approved by chaperones. The League solicited local families to board players during the season. Players were not allowed to fraternize with members of other clubs or drive their own cars beyond their cities' limits without special permission of their managers. They were fined significant amounts for infractions of these and more minor conduct rules.[38]

The conduct rules listed above were comparable to those instituted in colleges and they reflected the concept of femininity held by League

administrators. It must be remembered also that Mr. Rickey was an advocate of the moral, collegiate image for men's professional ball players as well as for the women players. It is strongly suspected that Mr. Wrigley and Mr. Meyerhoff also adhered to this philosophy.[39]

The most successful years of the League, based on attendance figures, were 1943 to 1949.[40] Some of the factors which contributed to the initial success of the League were identified as 1) the availability of a broad talent base; 2) the dedication of experienced organizational and nearly unlimited financial resources to the formation of the League; 3) the institution of a unique system for equalizing team strength; 4) the existence of a captive audience; and 5) the utilization of extensive and professional publicity and promotional campaigns. Softball was a cheap, morale-building and very popular recreation for men and women, young and old, spectators and participants alike during the 1930s and early 1940s. Mr. Wrigley merely tapped an existing, popular spectator entertainment and attempted to insure the financial success of all teams through league rather than team ownership of players. War production and transportation restrictions created a spectator market for the League. These factors coupled with extensive publicity and promotional campaigns increased yearly attendance figures through the war years. It is my opinion that the quantity and quality of the publicity and promotional campaigns supplied by Mr. Meyerhoff between 1943 and 1949 contributed significantly to the league's success in the immediate post-war period.

"Femininity" juxtaposed with skilled baseball ability remained a central them in league publicity for the duration of its existence.[41] Mr. Meyerhoff, by profession an advertising agent also continually sought

publicity and promotional campaigns international and national as well as local in character.

Perhaps the most ambitious promotional undertaking on an international scale was Mr. Meyerhoff's spring training excursion to Cuba where all eight teams trained in Havannah in 1947. The Dodgers trained in Cuba in 1947 also because Jackie Robinson was on the roster and the Dodger administration didn't want to risk training in the South with him. To Mr. Meyerhoff's delight the Girls' League attracted over 75,000 spectators during an eight game exhibition series, far outdrawing the Dodger exhibition games.[42]

The popularity of the AAGBBL in Cuba inspired the formation of a Latin American Feminine Basebol League and in the fall of 1947 a group of American players and a group of Cuban all stars were to have played exhibition games in Cuba, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Columbia, Panama, Mexico and Texas. The tour didn't make it out of Cuba for lack of reliability on the part of the Cuban organizers, but the Cuban tour at least was considered a success.[43] As a result of the 1947 spring and fall training and exhibition tours, several Cuban players were recruited and played with the AAGBBL.[44]

On a national scale, Mr. Meyerhoff obtained feature stories of the league in popular magazines such as Life and Collier's.[45] He was also able to have articles of the League published in manufacturers and insurance company publications[46] and in national serials.[47]

These international and national promotional efforts were viewed by Mr. Meyerhoff as valuable player recruiting devices as well as good publicity.[48] Outstanding female talent was not as well organized through

schools and colleges as outstanding male talent, and the publicity obtained from these promotional campaigns attracted players to the League.

Another method utilized by Mr. Meyerhoff for promoting the League in different regions of the country and discovering new talent were spring training tours through the south and back to local cities.[49] Proceeds from these tours were often contributed to local charitable causes. Officials from the Lexington Kentucky Colored Orphans and Industrial Home received, for instance, a $300.00 check from AAGBBL games played there in May, 1947.[50]

In 1949 and 1950 Mr. Meyerhoff sponsored two exhibition teams which toured various sections of the U.S. throughout the summer. They were comprised mainly of rookies who gained valuable playing experience while on tour. These two teams travelled by bus and their bus driver, Lenny Zintax, was also their manager.[51]

The bulk of Mr. Meyerhoff's and his successors' publicity efforts were of course directed at local constituents. Local publicity and promotion ranged from daily game coverage in local sports pages to industrial endorsements in team yearbooks; from automobile stickers and bill boards; to player endorsements and player entertainment; from special player nights to special professional pre-game entertainment; from celebrity visits to honorary appearances. One special appearance featured 74 year old Mrs. Stoll in Peoria to throw out the first ball of the season. Mrs. Stoll had played baseball with the New York Champions and Boston Bloomer Girls in 1892 and 1893.[52]

One of the most novel promotional campaigns was Mr. Wrigley's attempt, in 1944, to combine symphony orchestra and girls' baseball into an entertainment package. Sports writers treated the experiment with

humorous ridicule. One writer observed that "Sporting and musical experts agreed that some ball fans might be converted into music lovers, but that the reverse possibilities were dubious."[53]

Perhaps the most historic promotional enterprise, as far as the baseball world is concerned, was the staging of an AAGBBL double header in Wrigley Field as a Red Cross Thank You Night in 1944. The historic part of this double header was that it was played at night, under portable lights totaling 38,500 watts. The ideal wattage would have been somewhere in the neighborhood of 300,000 watts. As far as I know these were the only games ever played at night in Wrigley Field. Between 16,000-20,000 fans attended the event.[54]

The most concrete local promotional efforts supported by the League included contributions to local community recreation projects. In 1943 and 1944 the League contributed a $1,000 scholarship to a female physical education student who was a resident of the city whose team won the post season championship or Scholarship Series, as it was labelled. The purpose of the scholarship was to encourage feminine athletics and physical training.[55]

The most frequently sponsored recreation programs were youth baseball programs. In 1948 and 1949 for instance, the Muskegon Lassies sponsored six teams of Jr. Lassies. These teams played with the same rules and the same ball as the professional league. The express purpose of their organization was to combat juvenile delinquency and train future league players.[56] Some of these Jr. League players grew up to play with their local teams, as did Pee Wee Wiley who played first base for South Bend in the 1950s.[57]

A major respect in which League promotional efforts differed after the

Management Corporation period was in scheduling the girls' teams to play against men's teams or allowing the girls to play on men's teams. These particular promotional devices were strictly avoided by both Mr. Wrigley and Mr. Meyerhoff. They wanted to maintain the girls' game completely separate from the men's. When team directors obtained autonomous ownership of their personnel in 1951, they frequently sponsored games pitting the local men's and women's teams against each other for promotional purposes. An exchange of batteries generally accompanied this practice. In one instance All-Star AAGBBL shortstop Dotty Schroeder was selected to play a few innings with the Kalamazoo Men's Championship team to promote an annual benefit game against the Grand Rapids Black Sox, an all Black team.[58]

The emphasis placed on publicity and promotion from 1943 to 1950 is not to suggest that League publicity ceased after Mr. Meyerhoff's association with the league discontinued in 1950. It is merely to suggest that the quantity and quality of Mr. Meyerhoff's publicity efforts were significant in maintaining the League's popularity in the immediate post-war years. When the League disassociated with Mr. Meyerhoff in 1950 the promotional budget was cut drastically and if board meeting minutes are any indication, attendance also began dropping drastically.[59] League Board members increasingly complained about operating in the red and cellar clubs more frequently claimed bankruptcy.

But the demise of the AAGBBL after the 1954 season was more complicated than just a decrease in the publicity budget. Other intra-league factors which contributed to the dissolution of the League included switching from softball to baseball which drastically reduced the available talent pool the League could draw from.[60] The administrative changes which led from a league-centered to a team-centered organization in 1951 revealed team

directors' resistance to the concept of balanced competition--each one wanted their team to win.[61] The loss of key players through injuries, retirement, player raids from Chicago's rival semi-pro league and other causes resulted in team losing streaks which led to reduced attendance and in some cases team bankruptcy.[62]

Post World War II social changes combined with intra-league changes to contribute to the League's demise. Recreational trends in the 1950s included the growth of outdoor recreation, the growth of all forms of travel, the mushrooming of television viewing and the growth of do-it yourself activities. All of these events counteracted the war-time pattern of attending local sporting activities. These factors also contributed to the decline and demise of men's minor league baseball throughout the U.S. during the early 1950s.[63]

Poor weather conditions were a constant complaint of the South Bend directors during the 1954 season. One quarter of the total league games were rained out that year.[64]

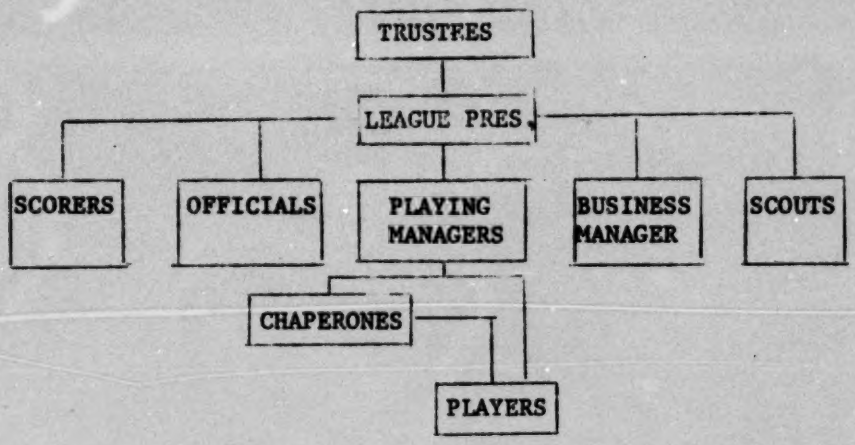
William Chafe in his book The American Woman: Her Changing Social, Economic and Political Role, 1920-1970, presented some data which suggested a re-emphasis on the home as the focus of women's sphere during the 1950s. He cited larger families in the post war period and the exodus to suburbia as evidences of this development. The exodus to suburbia resulted in the wife becoming a family chauffer and re-emphasized her role in making the home an oasis of comfort for the husband.[65] A re-emphasis on the home as womens' proper sphere seemed to be accompanied by a de-emphasis on womens' participation in historically masculine occupations such as baseball.

The ultimate question of course is what instructive lessons can be

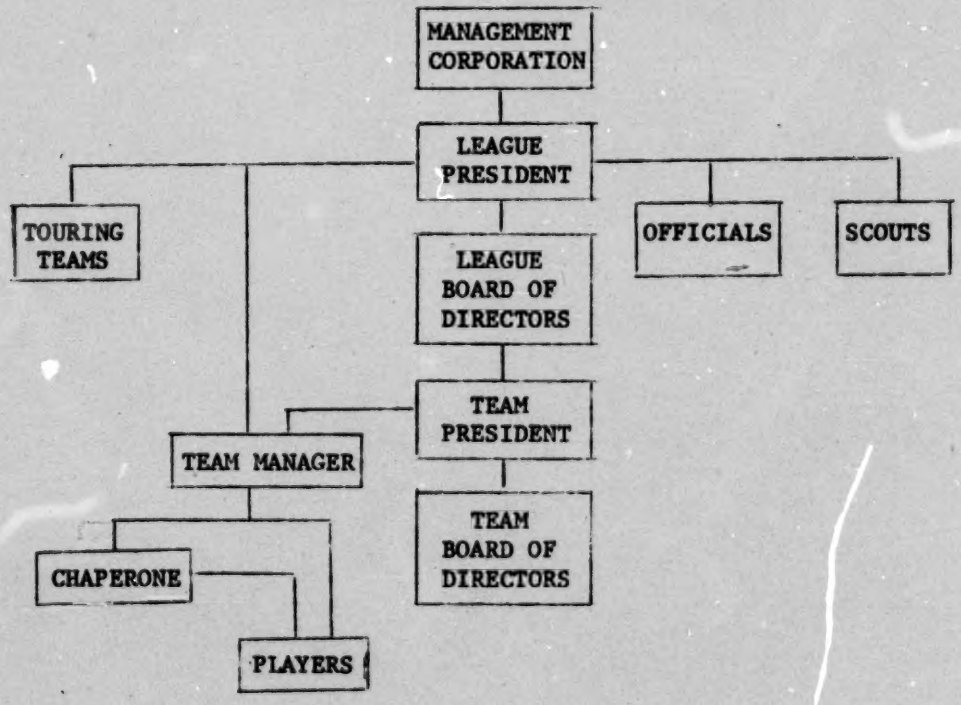
ascertained from the League's experience for current and future application to women's professional sport. The League's experience seemed to point to the following factors as basic principles of operation for a women's professional team sport: 1) Determine the availability of a broad talent base and initiate programs to maintain it; 2) Obtain financial support from individuals or groups dedicated enough to the activity to carry it through unprofitable periods; 3) Establish and maintain a substantial advertising and promotional budget; 4) Attempt to establish and maintain organizational legislation which assures the greatest potential for equalized competition. I believe application of these basic elements would be a necessity in the organization of women's professional sport at present and in the future. Indeed, they appear to be the same principles which contribute to the success of men's professional sport.

APPENDIX

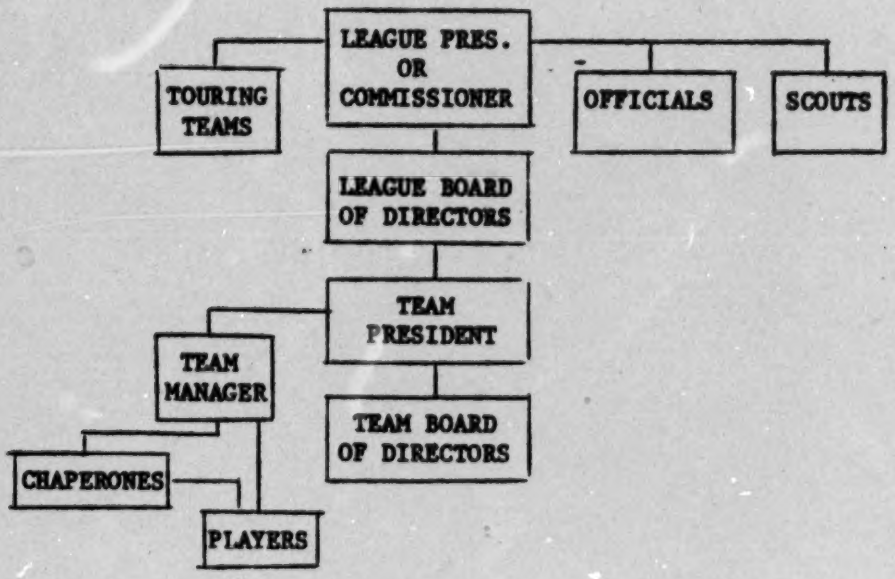
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE AAGBBL, 1943-1944



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE AAGBBL, 1945-1950



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE AAGBBL, 1951-1954

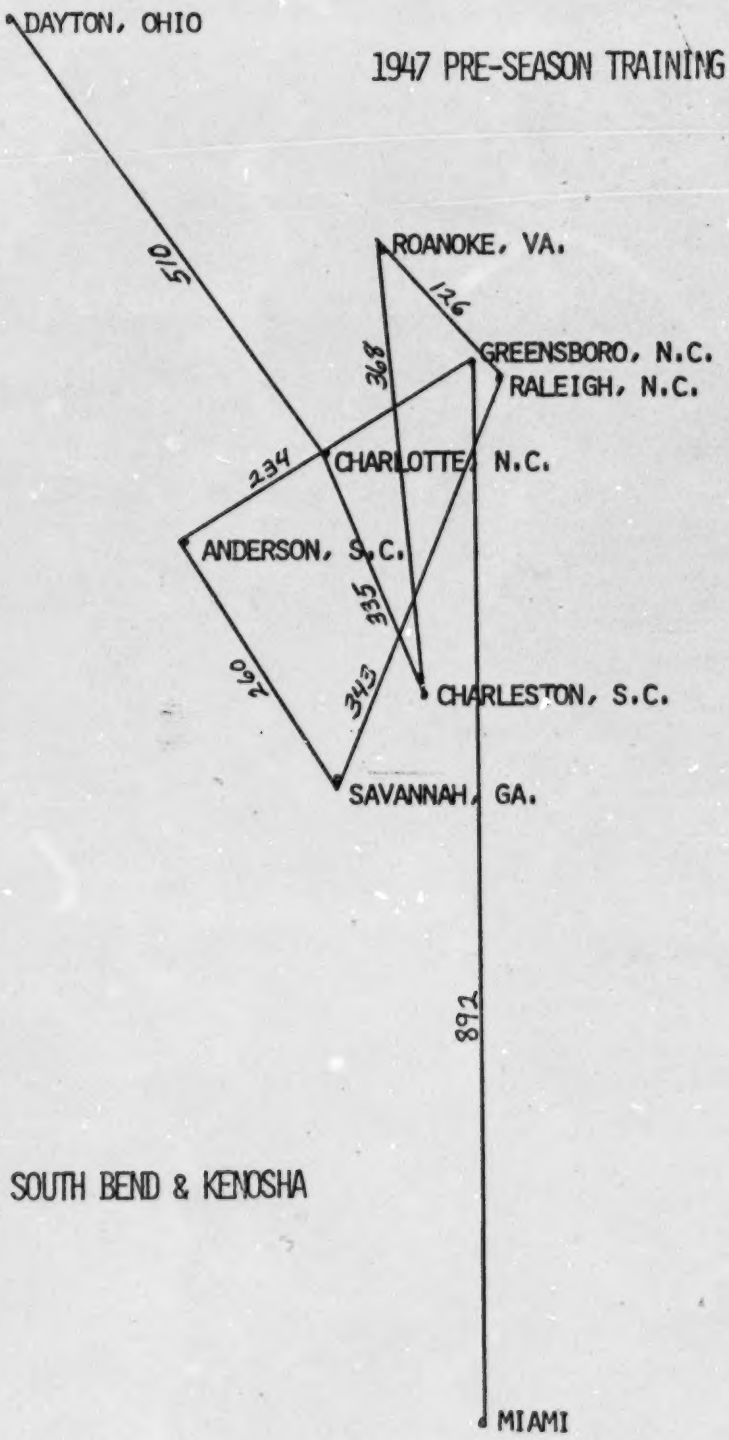


COMPARISON OF LEAGUE PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION BUDGET WITH SEASONAL ATTENDANCE

YEAR	NO. TEAMS	PUBLICITY & PROMOTION BUDGET	TOTAL ATTENDANCE PER SEASON
1943	4	?	176,612
1944	6	$5,067.00	259,658
1945	6	4,102.46	450,313
1946	8	4,066.80	754,919
1947	8	4,809,51	789,488
1948	10	8,445.40	910,747
1949	8	3,341.15	585,813
1950	8	468.00	481,981
1951	8	500.00	?
1952	6	200.00	?
1953	6	?	?
1954	5	?	?

ALL-AMERICAN GIRLS' BASEBALL LEAGUE TEAMS, 1943-1954

Rockford Peaches (Ill.)	1943-1954	Peoria Redwings (Ill.)	1946-1951
South Bend Blue Sox (Ind.)	1943-1954	Muskegon Lassies (Mich.)	1946-1950
Kenosha Comets (Wisc.)	1943-1951	Chicago Colleens (Ill.)	1948)
Racine Belles (Wisc.)	1943-1950	Springfield Sallies (Ill.)	1948
Milwaukee Chicks (Wisc.)	1944	Kalamazoo Lassies (Mich.)	1950-1954
Minneapolis Millerettes (Minn.)	1944	Battle Creek Belles (Mich.)	1951-1952
Fort Wayne Daisies (Ind.)	1945-1954	Muskegon Belles (Mich.)	1953
Grand Rapids Chicks (Mich.)	1945-1954		



GROUP 3: SOUTH BEND & KENOSHA

AAGBBL PLAYER SALARIES

YEAR	LOW	HIGH
1943 - 1949	$40 PER WEEK	$85 PER WEEK, EXPENSES PAID
1950	NO MINIMUM	$100 MAXIMUM, EXPENSES PAID
1951 - 1953	$5400 SALARY LIMITATION A MONTH PER TEAM. NO MINIMUM OR MAXIMUM PER PLAYER. EXPENSES PAID.	
1954	$4400 SALARY LIMITATION A MONTH PER TEAM. $400 MAXIMUM PLAYER SALARY PER MONTH, TO INCLUDE $115 EXPENSE MONEY. NO MINIMUM PLAYER SALARY.	

RECORD OF AAGBBL EQUIPMENT AND FACILITY CHANGES

YEAR	BALL SIZE	LENGTH OF BASEPATHS	PITCHING DISTANCE	PITCHING STYLE
1943	12"	60'	40'	UNDERHAND
1944		68'		
1945	11 1/2"		42'	
1946	11"			UNDERHAND & LIMITED SIDEARM
1947		70'	43'	SIDEARM
1948	10 3/8"	72'	50'	OVERHAND
1949	10" (RED SEAM)		55'	
1950	LIVELIER 10" BALL			
1952	LIVELIER 10" BALL			
1954	9"	85'	60'	

NOTES

[1]William Henry Chafe, The American Woman: Her Changing Social, Economic, and Political Roles, 1920-1970 (New York: Oxford University Press, 1972), pp. 135-144.

[2]Mary Elizabeth Pidgeon, Women's Work and The War (Chicago: Science Research Associates, 1943), pp. 14-25, 30-48.

[3]Paul Gardner, "Now...Lady Umpires!" This Week Magazine (Newspaper), 17 July 1943; Kenosha Evening News (Wisconsin), 20 August 1943, p. 8.

[4]Racine Belles Year Book (Racine, Wisconsin, 1944), pp. 10-14, Arthur E. Meyerhoff AAGBBL Files, Wrigley Building, Chicago, Illinois.*

[5]Richard Kraus, Recreation and Leisure in Modern Society (New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts Meredith Corporation, 1971), pp. 203-205; Mabel Lee, "The Case For and Against Intercollegiate Athletics for Women and the Situation Since 1923," Research Quarterly 2 (May 1931): 93-127; John Brown, Jr., "Softball Problems--Hearings on Present Situation," Recreation 28 (December 1934): 445-446.

[6]Leo Fischer, "Softball Steps Up," Reader's Digest 34 (June 1939): 135; Aaron Davidson, "The Batter Half," Collier's 114 (August 12, 1944): 41; Frank J. Taylor, "Fast and Pretty," Collier's 102 (August 20, 1938): 38.

[7]Kenosha Evening News (Wisconsin), 1 May 1943, p. 3; "The Innovator," Newsweek, 66 (December 20, 1965): 58.

[8]Ibid.

[9]"Cubs Present Girls' Softball Plan to N. L.," The Chicago Daily News, 9 February 1943, p. 15; Ken Beirn (specialist on manpower in the Office of War Information) to Philip Wrigley, 18 December 1942, Arthur E. Meyerhoff AAGBBL Files, Drawer 19, 1943 Correspondence Folder.

[10]Gene Kessler, "Hair-Pulling Softball War," Chicago Daily Times, 11 May 1943, sports section.

[11]Kenosha Evening News, 13 May 1943, p. 8; "Ladies of Little Diamond," Time 41 (June 14, 1943): 74; All-American Girls Baseball League Manual (Chicago: Management Corporation, ca. 1948), p. 8, Arthur E. Meyerhoff AAGBBL Files.

[12]Interview with Jean Faut Winsch (former AAGBBL player), South Bend, Indiana, 6 January 1973.

* Hereafter cited as Arthur E. Meyerhoff AAGBBL Files.

[13]Memorandum to Sports Editors, 15 July 1943, Arthur E. Meyerhoff AAGBBL Files, Drawer 19, 1943 News Release Folder; AAGBBL Board Meeting Minutes, 14 December 1944, Harold T. Dailey Records, c/o Jean Faut Winsch, South Bend, Indiana.#

[14]Ken Sells to Harold T. Dailey regarding the early history of the AAGBBL, ca. 1946, Harold T. Dailey Records, 1943-1946.

[15]AAGBBL Board Meeting Minutes, 4 November 1944, Harold T. Dailey Records, 1943-1946.

[16]AAGBBL Board Meeting Minutes, 3 April 1945 and 19 September 1945, Harold T. Dailey Records.

[17]Harold T. Dailey Records, 1943-1946; AAGBBL Board Meeting Minutes, 16 November 1949, Harold T. Dailey Records.

[18]Personal comment, Harold T. Dailey Records, 1943-1946 (notation above picture of Mr. Wrigley).

[19]AAGBBL Board Meeting Minutes, 18 December 1950, Harold T. Dailey Records.

[20]Harold T. Dailey Records, 1943-1954.

[21]"Early History of the League--Notes From (Frank) Avery," Harold T. Dailey Records, 1943-1946; Bernard Friedman, The Financial Role of Indiana in World War II (Bloomington, Indiana: University Press, 1965), pp. 24, 25; Mary Watters, Illinois in the Second World War, vol. II: The Production Front (Springfield, Illinois: Illinois State Historical Library, 1952), pp. 251-252; Kenosha Evening News (Wisconsin), 27 May 1943, p. 16.

[22]Kyle Crichton, "Not So Soft," Collier's 96 (August 10, 1935): pp. 24, 38; Kenosha Evening News (Wisconsin), 19 May 1943, p. 10; Carl Biemiller, "World's Prettiest Ballplayers," Holiday 11 (June 1952): p. 50; Morris A. Bealle, The Softball Story (Washington: Columbia Publishing Co., 1957), pp. 97-104; 116, 158-160, 113-115.

[23]Carl Biemiller, "World's Prettiest Ballplayers," Holiday 11 (June 1952): p. 75; Harold T. Dailey Records, 1943-1954.

[24]Muskegon Lassies Year Book (Muskegon, Michigan, 1947), p. 65, Arthur E. Meyerhoff Files.

Hereafter cited as Harold T. Dailey Records.

[25]"I was especially fortunate at the time we started this league in finding good baseball men available, because many minor league teams were not operating." Ken Sells to Harold T. Dailey regarding early history of the AAGBBL, ca. 1946, Harold T. Dailey Records, 1943-1946.

[26]Peoria Redwings Official Year Book (Peoria, Illinois, 1949), p. 31; Muskegon Lassies Year Book (Muskegon, Michigan, 1947), p. 14; Grand Rapids Chicks Year Book (Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1947), p. 11, Arthur E. Meyerhoff Files; South Bend Tribune (Indiana), 8 August 1949, sports page; Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette (Indiana), 15 May 1952, p. 14; Lawrence S. Ritter, The Glory of Their Times: The Story of the Early Days of Baseball Told By The Men Who Played It (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1966), pp. 215-224; Morris Markey, "Hey Ma You're Out!" McCall's (September 1950).

[27]Carl L. Biemiller, "World's Prettiest Ballplayers," Holiday 11 (June 1952): 77-78; Harold T. Dailey Records, 1954; Peoria Redwings Official Year Book (Peoria, Illinois, 1949), p. 31, Arthur E. Meyerhoff Files.

[28]News Release from AAGBBL Headquarters, 26 June 1950b; AAGBBL Board Meeting Minutes 5 July 1950; News Release from AAGBBL Headquarters, 1 August 1950b; Personal Comment, 22, 29 August 1950b; AAGBBL Board Meeting Minutes, 20 September 1950; AGBL Notes, 21 November 1950b; AGBL Rules and By-Laws, 1951a, Harold T. Dailey Records.

[29]Kenosha Evening News (Wisconsin), 13 May 1943, p. 8; AAGBBL Board Meeting Minutes, 2 October 1949, Haorld T. Dailey Records. Racine Belles Year Book (Racine, Wisconsin, 1946), p. 13, Arthur E. Meyerhoff Files.

[30]Racine Belles Year Book (Racine, Wisconsin, 1945), p. 16; Muskegon Lassies Year Book (Muskegon, Michigan, 1947), pp. 10, 17, Arthur E. Meyerhoff Files.

[31]Rockford Register-Republic (Illinois), 23 August 1943, p. 10, 24 August 1943, sports page; Racine Journal Times (Wisconsin), 4 June 1945, p. 12, 6 June 1945, p. 12; Kenosha Evening News (Wisconsin), 17 September 1947, p. 10.

[32]Kenosha Evening News (Wisconsin), 27 May 1943, p. 16; Racine Belles Year Book (Racine, Wisconsin, 1946), p. 23; Peoria Redwings Official 1949 Year Book (Peoria, Illinois, 1949), p. 59, Arthur Meyerhoff Files; AAGBBL Board Meeting Minutes, 11 July, 21 December 1949, 18 January 1950; "Evolution of the Ball Size Used In All American Girls Base Ball League from 1943 to 1949, And Diamond Changes," Harold T. Dailey Records, 1943-1946; Major League Baseball Facts and Figures (Racine, Wisconsin: Dell Publishing Company, 1947), pp. 130-131; "All-American Girls Baseball League - 1948," Harold T. Dailey Records; South Bend Tribune (Indiana), 11 June 1954, sec. 3, p. 3.

[33]Ken Sells to Dr. Dailey, ca. 1946, Harold T. Dailey Records, 1943-1946.

[34]"A New Game," Racine Belles Year Book (Racine, Wisconsin, 1944), pp. 8-9, Arthur E. Meyerhoff Files.

[35]Kenosha Evening News (Wisconsin), 3 May 1943, p. 3; AAGBBL Board Meeting Minutes, 14 November 1944, 18 January 1950, 10 April, 1954; AGBL Rules and By-Laws adopted 30 January 1951, Harold T. Dailey Records.

[36]Racine Belles Year Book (Racine, Wisconsin, 1944), p. 16; Peoria Redwings Official Year Book (Peoria, Illinois, 1949), p. 41, Arthur E. Meyerhoff Files.

[37]"Rules and Regulations of the All-American Girls Baseball League," ca. 1945, Harold T. Dailey Records, 1943-1946; AAGBBL Board Meeting Minutes, 14 November 1944, Harold T. Dailey Records; Kenosha Evening News (Wisconsin), 3 May 1943, p. 3.

[38]"Rules and Conduct For Players - All-American Girls Baseball League," Duplicated list of rules in Arthur E. Meyerhoff Files, 1947 Rules & Regulations Folder.

[39]David Quentin Voigt, American Baseball, vol. II: From the Commissioners To Continental Expansion (Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1970), p. 64; William B. Furlong, "P.K. Wrigley: Baseball Magnate," The Saturday Evening Post 244 (Summer 1972): 113.

[40]AAGBBL Attendance Records, 1943-1948, Harold T. Dailey Records, 1949; "League Attendance for Year 1949," Harold T. Dailey Records, 1949; News Release from AAGBBL Headquarters, 21 November 1950a, Harold T. Dailey Records.

[41]Kenosha Evening News (Wisconsin), 13 May 1943, p. 8; All-American Girls Baseball League Manual (Chicago: Management Corporation, ca. 1948), p. 8, Arthur Meyerhoff Files.

[42]Harold T. Dailey Records, 1947; David Quentin Voigt, American Baseball vol. II: From the Commissioners to Continental Expansion (Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1970), p. 299; News Release from AAGBBL Headquarters, 12 September 1947, Arthur E. Meyerhoff Files, 1947 News Release Folder.

[43]Ibid. Max Carey to Tour Players, 23 October 1947, Arthur E. Meyerhoff Files, South American Tour Folder.

[44]Harold T. Dailey Records, 1947 and 1948.

[45]"Girls' Baseball," Life (June 4, 1945): 63-66; Bill Fay, "Belles of the Ball Game," Collier's 124 (August 13, 1949): 44.

[46]Don H. Black, "Belles of Baseball," The Ashlar (Monthly Publication of the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company), Vol. 18, No. 8 (April 1948): 4-8; "Daring Damsels of the Diamond," Allsports (U.S. Rubber Company Publication), Vol. 9, No. 4 (July-August 1949): 12-13.

[47]Adie Suehsdorf, "Sluggers in Skirts," This Week Magazine: The Birmingham News (Alabama), 31 July 1949, pp. 4-5; Bob Feller, Ed., Baseball Thrills, ca. 1951, Harold T. Dailey Records, 1951a.

[48]Interview with Arthur E. Meyerhoff, Rancho Sante Fe, California, 28 December 1972.

[49]Racine Belles Year Book (Racine, Wisconsin, 1946), p. 28; Peoria Redwings Official Year Book (Peoria, Illinois, 1949), p. 5, Arthur E. Meyerhoff Files; Harold T. Dailey Records, 1949.

[50]Lexington Kentucky Leader, 1 June 1947, Harold T. Dailey Records.

[51]AAGBBL Board Meeting Minutes, 13 April, 1949, Harold T. Dailey Records; News Release from AAGBBL Headquarters, 7 August 1950, Harold T. Dailey Records; Interview with Nancy Mudge Cato, 26 October 1974, Elk River, Minnesota.

[52]Racine Belles Year Book (Racine, Wisconsin, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1948); Muskegon Lassies Year Book (Muskegon, Michigan, 1947, 1949); Grand Rapids Chicks Year Book (Grand Rapids, Michigan 1947); Peoria Redwings Official Year Book (Peoria, Illinois, 1949), Arthur E. Meyerhoff Files; Harold T. Dailey Records, 1947, 1948; News Release from AAGBBL Headquarters, 7 March 1950, Harold T. Dailey Records; South Bend Tribune (Indiana), summer months 1943-1954; Don H. Black, "Belles of Baseball," The Ashlar (Monthly Publication of the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company), Vol. 18, No. 8 (April 1948), p. 5; Chicago Daily News, 23 May 1947.

[53]"Baseball, Maestro, Please," Time (July 31, 1944): 40; The Milwaukee Journal, 21 July 1944, clipping from Arthur E. Meyerhoff 1944 files.

[54]"All-American Girls Professional Ball League...Red Cross 'Thank You' Night, Wrigley Field, Tuesday, July 18, 1944," Folder of clippings in Arthur E. Meyerhoff Files, Drawer 19, Red Cross Game At Wrigley Field Folder.

[55]Racine Belles Year Book (Racine, Wisconsin, 1944), pp. 20-21; Kenosha Evening News (Wisconsin), 21 August 1943, p. 3; Racine Journal-Times (Wisconsin), 6 June 1945, p. 12.

[56]Muskegon Lassies Year Book (Muskegon, Michigan, 1949), pp. 6-9, Arthur E. Meyerhoff Files.

[57]Harold T. Dailey Records, 1950a.

[58]Kalamazoo Gazette (Michigan), 29 August 1954, p. 31.

[59]Financial Statements in Harold T. Dailey Records , 1943-1952; Attendance Records in Harold T. Dailey Records, 1943-1949; News Release from AAGBBL Headquarters, 21 November 1950a, Harold T. Dailey Records.

[60]News Release from AAGBBL Headquarters, 6 February 195a, Harold T. Dailey Records; Personal comment, 1 August and 15 September 1950a, Harold T. Dailey Records.

[61]AAGBBL Board Meeting Minutes, 5 July, 20 September, and 18 December 1950; 24 January 1951; 8 November 1953, Harold T. Dailey Records.

[62]News Release from AAGBBL Headquarters, 1 July, 21 November 1950a; Personal comment, 15 July 1950a; Fred Leo Bulletin to AAGBBL Presidents, 1 December 1949, Harold T. Dailey Records.

[63]Richard Kraus, Recreation and Leisure in Modern Society (New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts Meredith Corporation, 1971), p. 209; David Quentin Voigt, American Baseball vol. II: From the Commissioners to Continental Expansion (Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1970), pp. 279-306.

[64]News Release from AAGBBL Headquarters 12 May, 13 July 1950a, Harold T. Dailey Records; Harold T. Dailey Records, 1954.

[65]William Henry Chafe, The American Woman: Her Changing Social, Economic and Political Role, 1920-1970 (New York: Oxford University Press, 1972), pp. 217-218.